SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5308**

			9		3			
6	1	3	5		7			
		2	6			8		
		5						
	6		2		8		7	1
	3			5		4		
	7		8		2			
2		1						6
	4			7	1		9	

TRICKY **B5308**

		3	5					9
		6	4			3		
	8	4				2		
	4		3	1			5	
1			9			6		
		9				7	3	
3					7	5		
2								
			1	6				

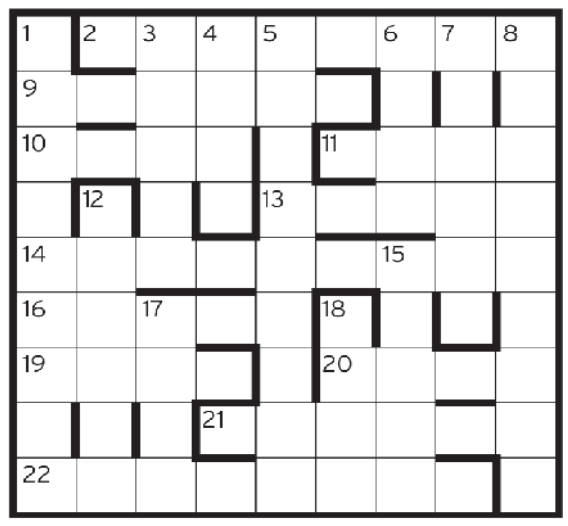
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

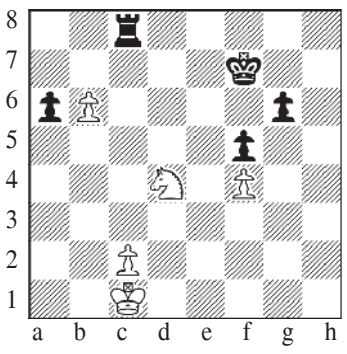
2 Particular (8)
9 Drawing implement (6)
10 Strong thick cord (4)
11 Auction items (4)
13 Acts without speaking (5)
14 Butter substitute (9)
16 Snooker ball colour (5)
19 Put down (4)
20 Cease (4)
21 Confederation (6)
22 Abandoned (8)



DOWN

1 Clambered (9)
3 Writing material (5)
4 Looked at (4)
5 Military officer (9)
6 Indicating original location (4)
7 Mean (6)
8 Test cases (anag.) (9)
12 Martial art (6)
15 Picture (5)
17 Lubricates (4)
18 Talk (4)

CHESS



WHITE WINS THE ROOK

HINT: KEY IS A KNIGHT FORK.

Solution:
1. b7! Rb8 2. Nc6!
Rxb7 3. Nd8ch! gets the rook.

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 30;
Very good 45;
Excellent 59 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

GUERRILLA

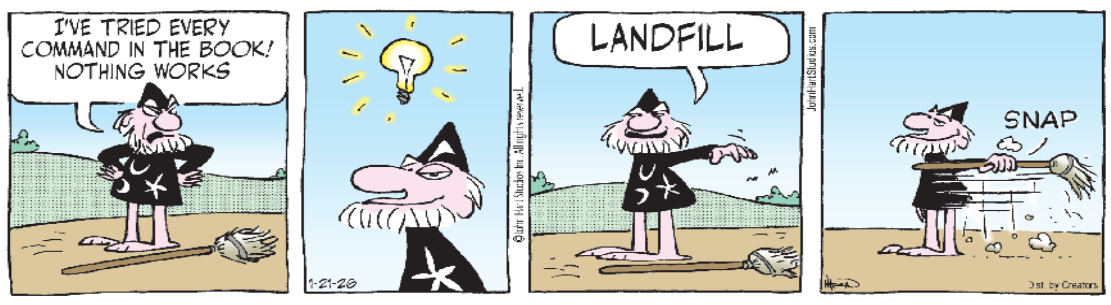
ague, allure, argue, arguer, auger, glue, gluier, gruel, guerilla, GUERRILLA, guile, gull, laurel, lieu, luge, lure, lurgi, regular, rule, ruler, rural, ugli, uglier, ullage, urea, ureal, urge, urger, urial

THE METRO FUNNIES

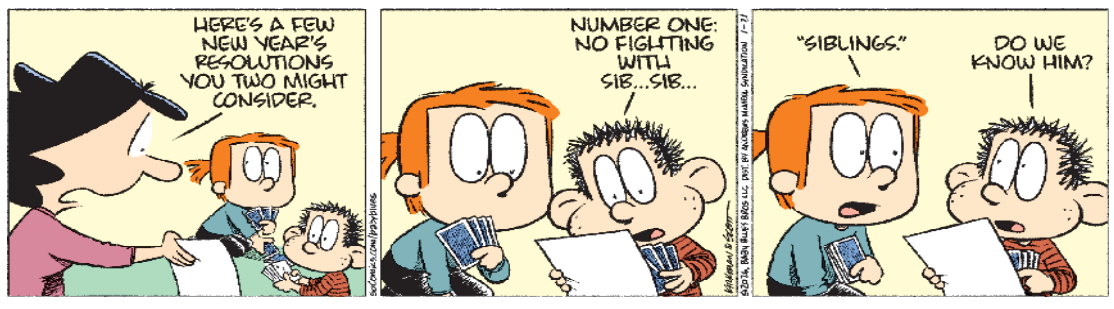
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH MOST CHEERS? THEY'RE WIMPY!
YELLING "YAY TEAM" DOESN'T CUT IT ANYMORE! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE OUR OPPONENT AFRAID OF US!
I'M WRITING CHEERS TO LET THE OTHER TEAM KNOW WE'RE ABOUT TO TEAR THEM TO SHREDS!
WELCOME TO THE DEATH OF SPORTSMANSHIP.
WHAT RHYMES WITH "ENTRAILS"?
Visit: bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES



WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:03pm	05:30pm	06:09pm	05:29pm	05:35pm	06:04pm
Sunrise	07:12am	07:07am	07:16am	06:59am	07:14am	07:23am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	9	23	Sunny	67	9	21	PM Showers	4	14	Mostly Sunny
Hyderabad	12	27	Sunny	46	7	26	Mostly Sunny	5	22	Sunny
Islamabad	9	21	Cloudy	57	8	18	PM Rain	4	11	Rain
Lahore	8	22	Sunny	79	12	21	Partly Cloudy	5	15	AM Showers
Multan	9	22	Sunny	75	7	20	PM Showers	5	15	Sunny
Peshawar	8	20	Cloudy	60	5	13	Rain	3	11	AM Showers
Quetta	0	11	Partly Cloudy	54	-9	2	AM Snow	-6	-1	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
HITHERTO

(HITHERTO: HIH-ther-too: Up to this or that time.)

Average mark 19 words
Time limit 35 minutes

Can you find 27 or more words in HITHERTO?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — SERIAL

sail	rise
sale	isle
sari	aisle
seal	lair
sear	lase
sire	laser
slier	liar
earl	
rail	
raise	
rale	
real	
rile	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

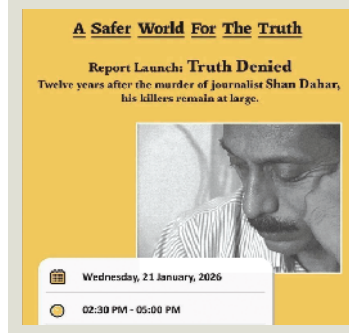
1 Deafening
7 Excuse
9 Corn
10 Clear
12 Fete
13 Penalises
14 Haul
16 Egypt
18 Nina
19 Recess
20 Residents.

DOWN

1 Decipher
2 Acre
3 Fungal
4 Escalated
5 Ice
6 Neaten
8 Trespass
11 Beagle
12 Fianc
15 Mien
17 Yes.

METRO EVENTS

REPORT LAUNCH


A Safer World For The Truth
Report Launch: Truth Denied
Twelve years after the murder of journalist Shan Dahar, his killers remain at large.
Wednesday, 21 January, 2026
02:30 PM - 05:00 PM

A report, 'Truth Denied: Twelve Years after the Murder of Journalist Shan Dahar, His Killers Remain at Large', is launched at Lecture Hall A, 12th floor, CEJ-IBA, at 2:30pm.

CONFERENCE

The last day of a conference on 'The Defensive Strategy of the State in the Light of the Seerah' at the Chinese Teachers Memorial Auditorium, University of Karachi, at 10am.

EXHIBITIONS

The Silence (in) Between, an exhibition of works by Aliya Yousuf, opens at Chawkandi Art, at 5pm. The show will continue till Jan 21.

An exhibition of works by Farazeh Syed is underway at Canvas Gallery. Titled *All the Women in Me*, it will continue till Jan 29, from 11am to 7pm.

A group show of works by 12 artists is underway at Mainframe Gallery. Titled *Unsettled, Yet Intimate*, it will continue till Jan 28.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** A conversation with someone younger might feel invigorating and stimulating today. Certainly, this is an excellent day to think about future goals. Why not bounce your hopes and dreams for the future off someone to get their feedback? Tonight: Solitude.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** Today you feel unusually clear about your objectives and your life direction (even though that might change in a day or two). This is because the Sun is lined up with Mercury at the very top of your chart, which enhances your ability to talk to (and impress) parents, bosses and authority figures. Yes! Tonight: Friendships.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

**** This is a fantastic day to study or use your mind for any intellectual pursuit, especially in academia, medicine, the law or something to do with publishing and the media. You will express yourself directly and convincingly. You will examine your ideas and state your position. Tonight: You're high-viz.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** You're a great saver. You're thrifty with your money and never casual about your finances. Today you have ideas about shared property, taxes, debt and how you handle any assets that are shared with someone else. It's an excellent day for negotiations. (Money might come to you.) Tonight: Explore and learn.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

**** This is a cards-on-the-table day. Discussions with partners, spouses and close friends will be clear-headed and direct. People will speak their minds. Sometimes this is a good thing because it can clarify issues, by giving either party the courage to air their grievances. Tonight: Check your finances.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** This is an excellent day to be hands-on with any job that you do. Roll up your sleeves and get busy! It's also a good day to talk to bosses and supervisors about what you want. You'll be more courageous than usual in expressing your needs. Fortunately, co-workers are supportive and helpful. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

**** Respect your creative ideas today. You're on a roll! Discussions with kids will be upbeat and worthwhile. Romantic partners also might have the courage to be very clear about what they want and do not want in a relationship. This is a fun-loving, playful day! Tonight: Work.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

*** Discussions with your kids will be lively and direct today. All parties will speak up to express their views. Likewise, romantic discussions will be explicit and, hopefully, each party will listen to the other. Meanwhile, you might have great ideas about sports or the arts. Tonight: Play!

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** Today you can sell sawdust to carpenters -- that's how convincing you will be. It's a wonderful day for sales, marketing, teaching, acting and writing. You will put a lot of yourself into whatever you say, which is why you'll be instructive and persuasive. Yadda, yadda, yadda. Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Respect your moneymaking ideas today -- they might be worthwhile. This is an excellent day to initiate something, especially related to commerce. You might make future plans related to jobs, saving and financial planning. You also might invest in art or something beautiful. Tonight: Travel and talk.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** With the Sun and Mercury lined up in your sign today, you will be chatty and keen to talk to everyone. You'll want to share your views with anyone who will listen. This is also an ideal day to take the initiative and start things! Vroom, vroom! Tonight: Check your money.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** This can be a revealing day for you because you might be more interested in examining yourself and becoming more aware of your position on certain topics or subjects. You might do research that reaffirms what you quietly believe. Tonight: You're in charge.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

The rationale of good defense

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 8 3
♥ 8 6 4
♦ K 9 4
♣ 8 5 3

WEST
♠ 7 4
♥ A Q 9 5
♦ 10 2
♣ A K 10 9 4

EAST
♠ 9 6 5
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ 7 6 3
♣ Q J 7

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 2
♥ K 10
♦ A Q J 8 5
♣ 6 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	2 ♣	Pass	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

Opening lead -- king of clubs.

Good defense is mostly a matter of visualizing declarer's hand and utilizing this knowledge to obtain the best possible result. Consider this deal where West leads the king of clubs and East plays the queen.

It is widely accepted that the play of the queen under partner's king at trick one signifies a singleton or possession of the jack. So West leads a low club at trick two, confident that East will ruff or play the jack.

After East wins the trick, he is faced with the crucial problem of what to play next. But there are many clues to guide him to the proper return. Most of these clues come from the bidding.

East knows that West has five clubs for his overcall, which means that South has no more clubs. He likewise knows that South bid diamonds before he bid spades, giving South a 4-2-5-2 or 4-3-4-2 distribution. (If South had only one heart, West would have five hearts and almost surely would have overcalled with one heart rather than two clubs.)

So, by putting all of these inferences together, East concludes that a club continuation would be futile and that a heart shift might be critical. He therefore returns the deuce of hearts at trick three.

The shift strikes pay dirt when West scores the A-Q of hearts to put the contract down one. Note that, after taking the king of hearts with the ace, West might have a problem deciding whether to try to cash the queen of hearts or the ace of clubs, but this too is an easy problem to solve.

East's lead of the deuce of hearts (fourth-best) indicates that he cannot have more than four cards in the suit, so South must have at least two hearts. West therefore plays the queen to set the contract.

Observe that without this precise defense, declarer would make four spades, discarding two hearts from dummy on his diamonds after drawing trump.

Tomorrow: It happened in Dead Man's Gulch.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5307

1	9	6	4	3	8	2	7	5
8	4	5	2	1	7	3	6	9
3	2	7	6	5	9	1	4	8
6	7	1	8	2	3	9	5	4
2	3	4	9	6	5	8	1	7
5	8	9	1	7	4	6	3	2
9	6	8	7	4	1	5	2	3
7	5	2	3	8	6	4	9	1
4	1	3	5	9	2	7	8	6

Tricky — B5307

3	8	6	9	7	1	4	2	5
9	4	5	2	6	3	8	7	1
1	2	7	8	5	4	9	6	3
6	1	2	4	8	9	3	5	7
5	3	8	7	1	6	2	4	9
4	7	9	5	3	2	6	1	8
2	9	1	3	4	5	7	8	6
8	5	4	6	9	7	1	3	2
7	6	3	1	2	8	5	9	4